Vol. VIII. Numb. 76

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*On the glorious Concluſion of the Campaign in the* Netherlands, *and our not being duly ſeconded in* Savoy, Germany, *and* Portugal; *with the Reaſonableneſs of enquiring into the Cauſes. On M.* Turennes *arrogant Monument in the Abby of St.* Dennis, *and the* French *King's inſolent Statue, and fulſome Inſcriptions in the Place of Victory at* Paris; *with* Roger's *Project for making Reprizals upon* Lewis *the XIVth, and his Generals, on that Head.* Roger's *Apology for this, and his Anſwer to the Challenge of the* Rehearſal Reviv'd's *picked Beard.*

From Wednesday, October 19. to Saturday, October 22. 1709.

*Country-m.* NOW the Campaign is over, Maſter, and I think we may juſtly ſay, that our Generals and Troops in the *Netherlands* have, all Things conſider'd, done more than could have been expected from Men, which is owing to the divine Bleſſing, that has ſo viſibly attended their Endeavours.

*Obſ.* I concur in Opinion with you, *Roger*, and could heartily have wiſh'd we had been equally ſucceſsful on all Sides. We muſt own however, that our Affairs in *Catalonia* have a much better Aſpect, and that our Progreſs there has been much greater than we could have expected; ſo that the Duke of *Anjou*'s ill-got Crown begins to totter, and his Throne, grown weary of *French* Uſurpation and Perjury, ſeems ready to ſhake him off.

*Country-m.* I believe it does, Maſter; and had our Endeavours been duly ſeconded on the Side of *Portugal* and *Savoy*, and the Elector of *Hannover* enabl'd to puſh his Point on the Side of *Alſace*, I am of Opinion we might have had an Abdication at *Madrid* before now; but God's Time is the beſt, and we muſt wait with Patience; yet I can ſee no Reaſon, Maſter, why our Repreſentatives, when they meet, ſhould not enquire into thoſe Things, and know what's the Reaſon that we have not a Penny-worth for our Penny every where?

*Obſ.* I think you are in the right, honeſt *Roger*. We have not Money in ſuch Affluence, as to part with it for nothing; and, bleſſed be God, the confederate Affairs are now in ſuch a Condition, that the Houſe of *Auſtria*, *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, need not much fear to examine whether the reſt of the Allies have acted their Part; and if it be found they have not, to enquire into the Reaſons.

*Country-m.* I think it highly reaſonable ſuch an Enquiry ſhould be made, Maſter, conſidering the great Sums of Money that have been order'd by Act of Parliament, to be pay'd for the War in *Savoy* and *Portugal*, and appropriated to that End; for without ſuch an Enquiry, we ſhall not be able to know whether the Number of Troops ſtipulated in thoſe Parts, be actually kept up; whether the Money may not be imbezil'd, and apply'd to other Uſes by Foreigners; and how the Troops that we pay for, are us'd or employ'd.

*Obſ.* Aye, but there's an Objection againſt that, *Roger*; too narrow a Scrutiny into thoſe Things, may perhaps diſoblige Somebody or other.

*Country-m.* If they be honeſt, Maſter, they will not refuſe to give an Account; and if they be not, 'tis fit we ſhould know it, that we may take our Meaſures accordingly. I know no Reaſon that any of the Allies ſhould ſpend their Time in paſſing and re-paſſing Mountains, or loiter in Incampments, while others hazard their Lives to do more than Men. You cannot but own, that if the Imperial Generals had been duly ſupported on the Side of *Dauphine*, we might have been able to take Winter-Quarters there, and by Conſequence at Hand to have carry'd the War next Spring into the Bowels of *France*, which not only abounds with Malecontents, but lies open on that Side. Had the Imperialiſts been able to advance, General *Mercy*'s Defeat might have been prevented, and the Elector of *Hannover*'s Deſign of [illegible] on that Side, not diſappointed. It grieves me to the Heart, Maſter, that ſo brave and wiſe a Prince ſhould be ſtill rendered incapable of doing what becomes his Character, and that noble Succeſſion to which he is entitl'd by our Law. I aſſert it to be our Concern to enquire into the Reaſons of it, for we may depend upon his Zeal, as well as upon his Ability: But there's no making Bricks without Straw.

*Obſ.* That's all very true, *Roger*; therefore I hope the Matter will be enquir'd into, and likewiſe why General *Starenberg*'s Efforts on the Side of [illegible], were not ſeconded on that of *Navarre*? I would not be underſtood to fix any Fault to the Diſadvantage of any of our Confederates; if their Want of Succeſs proceed from Diſability, 'tis to be pity'd, and redreſs'd; but if any of them be hampered with Miniſters, who prefer their own Intereſt to the common Advantage, or are mov'd by ſecret Springs, we have heard of Changes to the better among ſome of them; and I know no Reaſon why the ſame good Example ſhould not be follow'd by the reſt. We had a great Diſcourſe ſome Time ago, *Roger*, of a Deſign upon *Cadiz*; and ſince we may be confident it did not miſcarry by any Fault in the Fleet, 'tis Pity but the true Cauſe ſhould be known.

*Country-m.* Let's quit that Subject, Maſter, for ſomething that's more pleaſing. My Boy *Tom* was reading a Deſcription of *France* to me and *Joan*, as we ſat by the Fire t'other Night, and particularly an Account of the Tombs at *St. Denis*, where, among the Royal Monuments, there is one of the Great Marſhal *de Turenne*, adorn'd with Laurels, and at his Feet, *the Imperial Eagle in a wounded retiring, with his Wings expanded at the Sight of ſo formidable an Enemy*. This brought a Criticiſm into my Noddle, Maſter, which is this: Our Heroick Generals, the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*, have exceeded all that ever was done by M. *de Turenne*; and ſince I hope they will live many Years to do more Service to the Publick, I have a great Mind to go and talk with the [illegible] of our Heralds, and aſk if it might not be proper to make an Addition to their Arms.

*Obſ.* Then art a brave Fellow, *Roger*; and what Addition would you propoſe?

*Country-m.* I underſtand nothing of Heraldry, Maſter; but I thought of what we talk'd of the other Day, that the Eagle had loſt his Wings, *Two Wings cut, and an Eagle gules in the Field*. Now, why might not ſuch a Repreſentation be added to the Arms of thoſe Princes?

*Obſ.* I would be but a juſt Reprizal upon the *French* King for his Inſolence, [illegible] ought not miſtake his Inſolence for Arrogance.

*Country-m.* I have not done yet though, Maſter. *Tom* read me alſo an Account of the [illegible] Statue in the Place of Victory at *Paris*, a huge, monſtrous Thing, the Pedeſtal [illegible]

ther being about 40 Foot high, with a *Victory* ſtanding behind him, putting a Crown upon his Head, and he is trampling under his Feet, a *Cerberus*, I think they call it, a huge Dog with three Heads, Maſter, to denote his triumphing over the triple Alliance, and one of thoſe Heads repreſents that of our King *Charles* the IId, as near as the Artiſt could make the Head of a Dog reſemble that of a King. This fill'd me with ſuch Indignation, Maſter, that I grinn'd as horribly as any of thoſe Curs; which made *Tom* throw down the Book, and *Joan* and he both run over the Fire; for they certainly thought I had been mad, and was going to devour them. This turn'd my grinning into a loud Fit of Laughter, and while *Joan* was running to fetch ſome *Hellebore*, I call'd to her for a Bumper of *October*, and after drinking the Queen's Health, told her the Reaſon of my odd Poſtures.

*Clf.* Pray let's hear it, *Roger*; for 'tis curious to be true, eſpecially when your Fancy was heighten'd with a Cup of good Bub.

*Country-m.* I told her the Reaſon of my Grinning, Maſter, was, the Inſolence of the Statue, and the Malice and Fulſomeneſs of the Inſcription, Part of which was, *for having conquer'd his Enemies, protected his Allies, forc'd many ſtout Nations to ſubmit to his Dominion, and having deſtroy'd the* Calvinian *Impiety.* Ha, ſays I then, this is the Spirit which animates our High-flyers, and gives them Authority to ſay, that the Diſſenters and foreign Proteſtants are no Chriſtians: An excellent Pattern, and very well follow'd; but Juſtice has met with him, *he now flies before his Enemies, has ruin'd his Allies, the ſtout Nations have ſhook off his Yoke, and the* Calviniſts *of* Holland, Germany, *and* Great Britain, *have threſh'd his Doublet.*

*Clf.* Hold, *Roger*, why the *Calviniſts* of *Great Britain?* You know our High-Church abhors the Name, and utterly diſowns it.

*Country-m.* I can't help that, Maſter. But the Doctrine of our Church, as laid down in her Articles, is as like that of *Calvin*, as one Egg's like another, and in her Canons ſhe owns the *Calviniſts* to be true Churches, and orders them to be pray'd for accordingly; ſo that thoſe High-flyers, who advance the contrary, may call themſelves what they pleaſe, but they are no true Church-men, no more than good Subjects, ſince they give the Lie, both to our Articles and Canons, as well as to the Queen and Parliament, who have eſtabliſh'd the Church of *Scotland* as a true Church, and own her Worſhip to be pure, in the Union-Act.

*Clf.* You have ſaid enough for your Grinning; but what made you laugh, *Roger?*

*Country-m.* The following Conundrum, Maſter; I projected another Statue thus: I would have one ſet up in St. *James's* Square, for our glorious Queen, trampling upon a huge over-grown Wolf, with a Collar of Flower-de-Luces about his Neck, and chaining him with a Diſtaff, while an ancient Lady, habited half like a Comedian, and half like a Queen, ſits by on her Knees, turning over her Beads, and praying to her Wooden Gods for the Wolf's happy Deliverance.

*Clf.* Hold, hold, *Roger*, don't you know the *Ruſſian Envoy Reſid'd*, who ſays he is of the Family of the *picked Beards*, will take you to Task for ſpeaking ſo unreverently of crown'd Heads?

*Country-m.* I don't value him a Ruſh, Maſter, I have a Basket-hilted Beard, to match his picked Beard, at any Time, tho' he ſhould take in the whole Congregation of Whiſkers to his Aſſiſtance. *Alfred*, who was a King himſelf, ſays, that *a wicked Ruler over the People, is a ravening Lyon and ranging Bear*; and the Prophet *Ezekiel* tells us of *Princes like Wolves ravening the Prey, to ſhed Blood, and deſtroy Souls, to get diſhoneſt Gain.* Therefore, Maſter, ſince *Louis* the XIVth perfectly anſwers the Character, I will call him by that Name, in Spite of all the *picked Beards* of the Kingdom: And I tell you before-hand, Maſter, that when he abandons their *Twelve-tide* King, as he muſt do ere long, they will call him by harder Names than I do, and contrive a Barbers-ſhop for him, to ſhave Porters and Carmen, as a Poet of their own, whoſe chriſten'd Name was *Tom Brown*, did, upon his owning King *William* after the Treaty of *Reſnick*.

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